

RELEASE IN FULL

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Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2010 9:23 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: Situation Report No. 4 - Chile Earthquake (SBU)

From: OpsAlert
Sent: Sun Feb 28 19:09:29 2010
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SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

SITUATION REPORT No. 4
CHILE EARTHQUAKE MONITORING GROUP MGCI01
 Sunday, February 28, 2010
 1900 EST

OFFICIAL DEATH TOLL UPDATE, CONCEPCION DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

- (SBU) The Chilean government has issued an official death toll of 708.
(MGCI01/Embassy Santiago telcon)
- (SBU) The Chilean Army arrived in Concepcion. Reports on the security situation vary; media report sporadic looting, which authorities are working to contain. Embassy contacts report the situation improved over the course of February 28. A curfew is in place for Concepcion and the Maule region.
(MGCI01 e-mail, MGCI01/Embassy Santiago telcon)
- (SBU) Cell phone coverage in Concepcion deteriorated over the course of February 28. *(MGCI01/Embassy Santiago e-mail)*
- (SBU) There is no electricity in Concepcion and gas stations have run out of gas. Many people are attempting to flee the area, but the roads are damaged and clogged with traffic.
(MGCI01/Embassy Santiago e-mail)
- (SBU) The situation in Talcahuano is reportedly dangerous as a tsunami flooded the city, creating problems with sewage and hygiene. *(MGCI01/Embassy Santiago e-mail)*

STATUS OF EMBASSY/AMCITS

- (SBU) The Embassy continues to have no classified operations and requested assistance from OBO on dealing with HVAC problems. *(MGCI01/Embassy Santiago telcon)*
- (SBU) Eleven Locally Engaged Staff and thirty-five contractors remain unaccounted for. *(MGCI01/Embassy Santiago telcon)*
- (SBU) Some Embassy houses lack basic services with some Embassy families with no utilities. The Embassy warehouse is structurally damaged and closed.
(MGCI01/Embassy Santiago telcon)

- (SBU) There are no Americans gathered at the airport, but there are Americans at several hotels and the Embassy will send staff to those locations to ensure they are informed about the situation. *(MGCI01/Embassy Santiago telcon)*

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

- (SBU) SOUTHCOM and USAID will arrange for delivery of up to 35 satellite phones over the next two days. *(MGCI01/Embassy Santiago telcon)*
- (SBU) Embassy Santiago is coordinating with the government of Chile and Washington agencies on the Chilean request for medical assistance. *(MGCI01/Embassy Santiago telcon)*

AIRPORT STATUS/OPERATIONS

- (SBU) There are no international or domestic flights in or out of Santiago airport. The Chilean authorities may reopen the airport on March 2 if repairs to the terminal and access roads can be made. A collapsed fuel tank has not been cleaned up and there is a strong smell of the evaporating fuel. The major road entrance has collapsed, as has an overpass to the airport. Cars can transit, although their passage is not secure as they pass under the collapsed structure. *(MGCI01/Embassy Santiago telcon)*
- (SBU) Concepcion airport is open to military flights only. *(MGCI01/Embassy Santiago telcon)*

Please see our classified website at <http://ses.state.sgov.gov>.

Drafted: KSchulz

Approved: MTPascual/WParrs

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